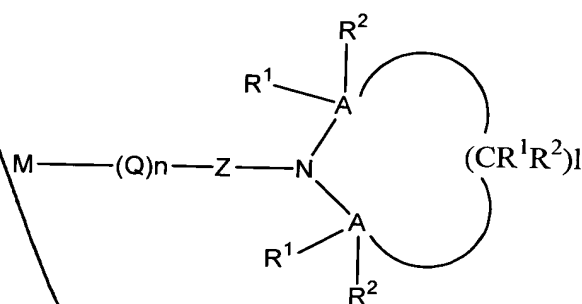


or of the formula



wherein:

M is lithium;

Q is a saturated or unsaturated hydrocarbyl group derived by incorporation of at least one conjugated diene hydrocarbons or mixtures thereof;

Z is a straight chain hydrocarbon connecting group which contains 3-25 carbon atoms;

T is oxygen;

(A-R¹R²R³)_m is a protecting group in which A is carbon and R¹, R², and R³ are alkyl;

n is >0 and <1; and

m is 1.

REMARKS

The Examiner has indicated Claim 21 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitation of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicants has amended Claim 17 to include the recitations of canceled Claim 20 and canceled 21. Thus, Applicants believe amended Claim 17 is allowable.